

AMENDMENT

Claims 1-43 (Canceled).

Claim 44 (Currently amended). A test kit useful for detecting a polynucleotide in a test sample, comprising:

a container containing at least one polynucleotide consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of ~~SEQ ID NOS: 1-9, SEQ ID NO: 12, and SEQ ID NO: 13, and the complete complements and degenerate coding sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 1-9, SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13.~~

Claim 45 (Original). The test kit of claim 44 further comprising:

tools useful for the collection of the test sample, the tools selected from the group consisting of lancets, absorbent paper, cloth, swabs and cups.

Claim 46 (Currently amended). A purified polynucleotide consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of ~~SEQ ID NOS: 1-9, SEQ ID NO: 12, and SEQ ID NO: 13, and the complete complements and degenerate coding sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 1-9, SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13.~~

Claim 47 (Original). The purified polynucleotide of claim 46, wherein said polynucleotide is produced by recombinant techniques.

Claim 48 (Original). The purified polynucleotide of claim 46, wherein said polynucleotide is produced by synthetic techniques.

Claim 49 (Canceled).

Claim 50 (Currently amended). An isolated recombinant expression system ~~comprising~~ consisting a nucleic acid sequence that includes an open reading frame operably linked to a control sequence compatible with a desired host, wherein said nucleic acid sequence consists of a polynucleotide ~~having~~ consisting a sequence selected from the group

consisting of ~~SEQ ID NOS: 1-9, SEQ ID NO: 12, and SEQ ID NO: 13, and the complete complements and degenerate coding sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 1-9, SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13.~~

Claim 51 (Canceled).

Claim 52 (Currently amended). A method for producing a polypeptide comprising at least one epitope, said method comprising:

incubating host cells that have been transfected with an expression vector containing a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:24-28, ~~and the complete complements and degenerate coding sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 1-9, SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13.~~

Claim 53 (Currently amended). An isolated cell transfected with a nucleic acid sequence, said nucleic acid sequence ~~comprising~~ consisting a polynucleotide encoding at least one epitope, the polynucleotide consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of ~~SEQ ID NOS: 1-9, SEQ ID NO: 12, and SEQ ID NO: 13, and the complete complements and degenerate coding sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 1-9, SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13.~~

Claim 54 (Currently amended). A purified polynucleotide which codes for a polypeptide consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NOS: 24-28, ~~and the complete complements and degenerate coding sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 24-28.~~

Claim 55 (Currently amended). A purified polynucleotide which codes for a polypeptide consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 24, SEQ ID NO: 25, ~~and the complete complements and degenerate coding sequences of SEQ ID NO: 24 and SEQ ID NO: 25.~~

Claim 56-58 (Canceled).